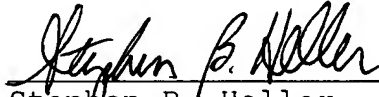


REMARKS

This is a Preliminary Amendment to the above-identified patent application, amending the specification to include the cross-reference to related applications, which recites that this application is the national stage of International Patent Application No. PCT/US03/08347, filed March 19, 2003, which claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/365,676, filed March 19, 2002.

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen B. Heller
Registration No. 30,181

COOK, ALEX, MCFARRON, MANZO,
CUMMINGS & MEHLER, LTD.
200 West Adams Street - #2850
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 236-8500